



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH &
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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TDMHDD CHIEF NURSE RECEIVES NATIONAL HONOR

Freida Hopkins Outlaw Inducted as Fellow of the American Academy of Nursing

NASHVILLE—Dr. Freida Hopkins Outlaw, Chief Nurse and Assistant Commissioner of Special Populations and Minority Services at the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities, was recently inducted as a Fellow into the American Academy of Nursing. Fifty-six nurse leaders received AAN's prestigious honor this year including three nurses from outside the United States.

Only nurses who evidence significant national and/or international contributions to nursing and health care are considered for Academy membership and each must be sponsored by two current Academy Fellows. Selection is based on the presentation of evidence of the nominee's work in improving nursing practice and health policy and as well as capacity to make contributions in the future. The mission of the Academy is to serve the public and nursing profession by advancing health policy and practice through the generation, synthesis, and dissemination of nursing knowledge.

Outlaw joins TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts as an AAN Fellow. Betts was inducted as a member in 1997.

"Along with the 520 nurses of the department, I am truly honored to have the opportunity to work with Dr. Freida Hopkins Outlaw. Her experience and expertise in the field of nursing and mental health is excellent, and her dedication to improving mental health care for all is reflected in her many accomplishments here at TDMHDD and throughout the nation." stated TDMHDD Commissioner Virginia Trotter Betts. "AAN could not have chosen a more qualified professional nurse to become a new Fellow."

Dr. Outlaw received her Baccalaureate in Nursing from Berea College, Masters in Psychiatric Nursing from Boston College and a Ph.D. from the Catholic University of America. She has over forty years of experience as a clinician, researcher, educator, and policy maker in public mental health service delivery. Dr. Outlaw has written extensively in the areas of cultural diversity, management of aggression, seclusion and restraint, and the role of religion, spirituality and the meaning of prayer for people with cancer. Since 2004 she has received three SAMSHA grants totaling \$9.8 million to study substance abuse in older adults, methamphetamine abuse and treatment, and the development of a system of care for children and youth with serious emotional disturbance.

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